



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim' meeting with International Economic Summit chair Peter Nussbaum (left) and World Economic Council members at Perdana Putra, Putrajaya yesterday, PIC BY IZZUDDIN ABD RADZAKI/PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

ADDRESSING KEY CHALLENGES

PM MOVES TO BOOST ASEAN, BILATERAL TIES

Anwar in phone calls with leaders from Australia, Thailand and Timor-Leste to step up cooperation

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim held a series of phone conversations on Thursday with three of

his regional counterparts, focusing on strengthening bilateral and regional ties.

The discussions with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Timor-Leste Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao and Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra also addressed key Asean challenges, including enhanced cooperation across Asean and beyond.

"Our conversations centred on current affairs, global developments, Asean, the impact of US tariffs, as well as ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation," Anwar said in a statement.

He also revealed that he had invited Albanese to visit Malaysia, aimed at reinforcing ties between both countries, particularly following the latter's success in securing a second term as Australian prime minister.

In his exchange with Xanana Gusmao, Anwar said they discussed the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, Timor-Leste's full membership in Asean and Malaysia's preparedness as Asean chair ahead of the summit later this month.

"Meanwhile, in the phone conversation with my counterpart from Thailand, Paetongtarn, several bilateral matters were discussed and updated, including the Southern Thailand Peace Dialogue, which requires peaceful initiatives rather than any elements of violence.

"May the ties between Malaysia and its neighbours in Asean, the wider Asia region and beyond, continue to flourish and bring mutual benefits in diplomacy, trade, investment and other areas of co-operation," he said.

Yesterday, Anwar met with International Economic Senate (IWS) chairman Peter Nussbaum and a delegation from the World Economic Council, an initiative under IWS.

After the meeting, the prime minister said Malaysia was seeking greater economic opportunities with the European Union.

The visit, he said, aligned with the resumption of negotiations for the Malaysia-European Union Free Trade Agreement (MEUFTA).

"I welcome their visit to Malaysia as a continued initiative to explore investment opportunities, particularly from German companies."

IWS, established in Germany, brings together business leaders, entrepreneurs, and policymakers

with the mission of fostering sustainable economic growth and responsible business practices.

"We exchanged views on policies and business facilities under the Madani government that could benefit foreign investors," added Anwar.

He said Germany has been Malaysia's largest trading partner among EU member states since 2000.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that Anwar and Paetongtarn have agreed to hold a joint cabinet meeting later this year at the Sadao-Bukit Kayu Hitam border area.

Paetongtarn, in a post on her official X account, said the matter was discussed during the phone conversation with Anwar on Thursday.

"We agreed to attend the opening of the new transborder road linking the new Sadao-Bukit Kayu Hitam checkpoints and to hold a joint cabinet meeting there later this year," she said.

Paetongtarn said Thailand and Malaysia reaffirmed the importance of ending the violence in Thailand's southern border provinces and strengthening collaboration to jointly develop the border areas of both sides.

She said they also discussed ways to strengthen Asean cooperation amid global challenges in trade, as well as to provide humanitarian assistance and support efforts to restore peace in Myanmar.

"I will continue discussions with Prime Minister Anwar during the Asean Leaders' Summit later this month in Kuala Lumpur."